

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:STESCUDERO:BH

APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON,JR.

S/S: M.TANNER

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R 140100Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RABAT

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, SS, MO

SUBJECT: ATHERTON-BOUTALEB MEETING, APRIL 1, 1976

1. NEA ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON MET WITH  
MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR ABDELHADI BOUTALEB ON APRIL 1, 1976.  
SUBSTANTIVE PORTIONS OF CONVERSATION SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

2. SPANISH SAHARA: BOUTALEB INSISTED THAT SAHARA QUESTION  
IS FINISHED, WITH MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA IN CHARGE OF THEIR  
RESPECTIVE PORTIONS OF FORMER SPANISH COLONY, MILITARY  
SITUATION CALM AND PEOPLE COOPERATING WILLINGLY. SPAIN ALSO

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COOPERATING AND ANNEXES TO TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT BEING IM-

PLEMENTED. ACCORDING BOUTALEB, FLY IN OINTMENT IS ALGERIA WHICH EXACERBATING RELATIONS IN MAGHREB BY SUPPORTING POLISARIO AND SO-CALLED SAHARAN DEMOCRATIC ARAB REPUBLIC (SDAR). DESPITE FAILURE OF ITS DIPLOMACY AND PAUCITY OF RECOGNITION ACCORDED SDAR BY OTHER NATIONS, ALGIERS STUBBORNLY REFUSES TO ADMIT ITS ISOLATION AND ABANDON ITS EFFORTS TO MAKE TROUBLE. IN MOROCCANS' VIEW, SITUATION MADE WORSE BY CONDUCT OF UNSYG ENVOY, SWEDISH AMB. RYDBECK, WHO HAS EXCEEDED SCOPE OF HIS MISSION BY MEETING WITH SDAR REPRESENTATIVES IN ALGERIA. RABAT AND NOUAKCHOTT REGARD THIS AS INADMISSIBLE AID TO ALGERIAN CAUSE, WILL REFUSE TO RECEIVE RYDBECK ON THESE GROUNDS, AND HAVE SO

INFORMED WALDHEIM IN PUBLISHED LETTER WHICH REQUESTS SYG IMPOSE SANCTIONS ON HIS ENVOY FOR MISCONDUCT. BOUTALEB ASKED USG TO SUGGEST TO WALDHEIM THAT QTE HE RECONSIDER HIS WORKING METHODS IF HE TRULY WANTS A SATISFACTORY OUT-COME TO THIS PROBLEM, RATHER THAN FOLLOWING A COURSE WHICH ONLY COMPLICATES THINGS UNQTE.

3. ATHERTON PROMISED TO REFLECT ON WHETHER U.S. INITIATIVE IN UN WOULD BE HELPFUL IN THIS CASE. HE ALSO EXPRESSED U.S. PLEASURE AT CALM IN SAHARA AND SUGGESTED THAT GOM SHOULD SEARCH FOR DIPLOMATIC MEANS TO OVERCOME REGIONAL TENSIONS AND RESTORE HARMONY TO MAGHREB. REITERATING THAT HE DID NOT GO ON RECENT NORTH AFRICAN TRIP AS MEDIATOR, MR. ATHERTON NOTED HE HAD MADE SIMILAR SUGGESTION TO ALGERIAN PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENNE WHILE ASSURING BOUMEDIENNE OF AMERICAN DESIRE FOR CLOSER U.S.-ALGERIA RELATIONS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO TRADITIONAL INTIMATE U.S. RELATIONSHIP WITH MOROCCO.

4. VISIT OF KING HUSSEIN OF JORDAN: BOUTALEB REQUESTED A BRIEFING ON VISIT OF JORDANIAN KING HUSSEIN, REMARKING THAT HIS OWN IMPRESSION WAS THAT WHILE LEBANESE PROBLEM MIGHT BE AMENABLE TO SOLUTION, MIDDLE EAST SITUATION REMAINS FROZEN. MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR ALSO ASKED IF AMBASSADOR BROWN INTENDS TO INCLUDE PLO IN HIS DISCUSSIONS IN BEIRUT.

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5. STRESSING URGENCY OF LEBANESE CRISIS, MR. ATHERTON SAID U.S. CONCERN WAS THAT IF SYRIA INTERVENED MILITARILY, THIS WOULD PROVOKE AN ISRAELI REACTION WHICH COULD EXTEND BEYOND LEBANON. AT SAME TIME, USG SUPPORTS SYRIAN POLITICAL EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT SETTLEMENT ON COMPROMISE TERMS OFFERING PROTECTION TO ALL LEBANESE COMMUNITIES. AMB. BROWN'S ARRIVAL ALSO APPEARS TO HAVE CALMED THINGS A BIT. BROWN WILL MEET WITH LEBANESE

LEADERS FROM ALL FACTIONS; HIS INSTRUCTIONS DO NOT INCLUDE AUTHORIZATION TO MEET WITH PLO, BUT WE RECOGNIZE PLO IS VALID FACTOR IN LEBANESE CONTEXT. WE MUST WAIT FOR BROWN'S FIRST REPORT TO SEE WHAT OUGHT TO BE DONE.

6. BOUTALEB ASKED IF HUSSEIN HAD ASKED U.S. TO AGREE TO SYRIAN MILITARY INTERVENTION AND TO KEEP ISRAELIS FROM REACTING MILITARILY. ATHERTON SAID HUSSEIN FEARED THAT LEBANESE SOLUTION WHICH PREVENTED RAPID LEFTIST/PLO TAKE-OVER COULD NOT BE ACHIEVED UNLESS SYRIA QUICKLY PUT TROOPS IN LEBANON. HUSSEIN ALSO RECOGNIZED DANGEROUS CONSEQUENCES FOR AREA IF ISRAEL RESPONDED WITH FORCE,

HOWEVER, AND WE MADE CLEAR TO HIM WE COULD NOT GUARANTEE CONTINUED SUCCESS OF OUR EFFORTS TO RESTRAIN ISRAEL IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES. LEBANESE SITUATION IN ANY CASE HAD CALMED SOMEWHAT DURING HUSSEIN VISIT, AND HE NOW LESS CONCERNED ABOUT IMMINENT COLLAPSE OF CHRISTIAN SIDE.

7. ON BROADER MIDDLE EAST QUESTION, U.S. IS INTERESTED TO SEE WHAT WILL COME OF NEW ISRAELI WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE ON ALL FRONTS THE QUESTION OF END OF STATE OF WAR IN RETURN FOR FURTHER SUBSTANTIAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWALS. PROGRESS WILL REQUIRE COOPERATION AND PATIENCE OF ALL CONCERNED, BUT WE DETERMINED THAT SITUATION SHALL NOT REMAIN FROZEN THROUGHOUT 1976. KISSINGER

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